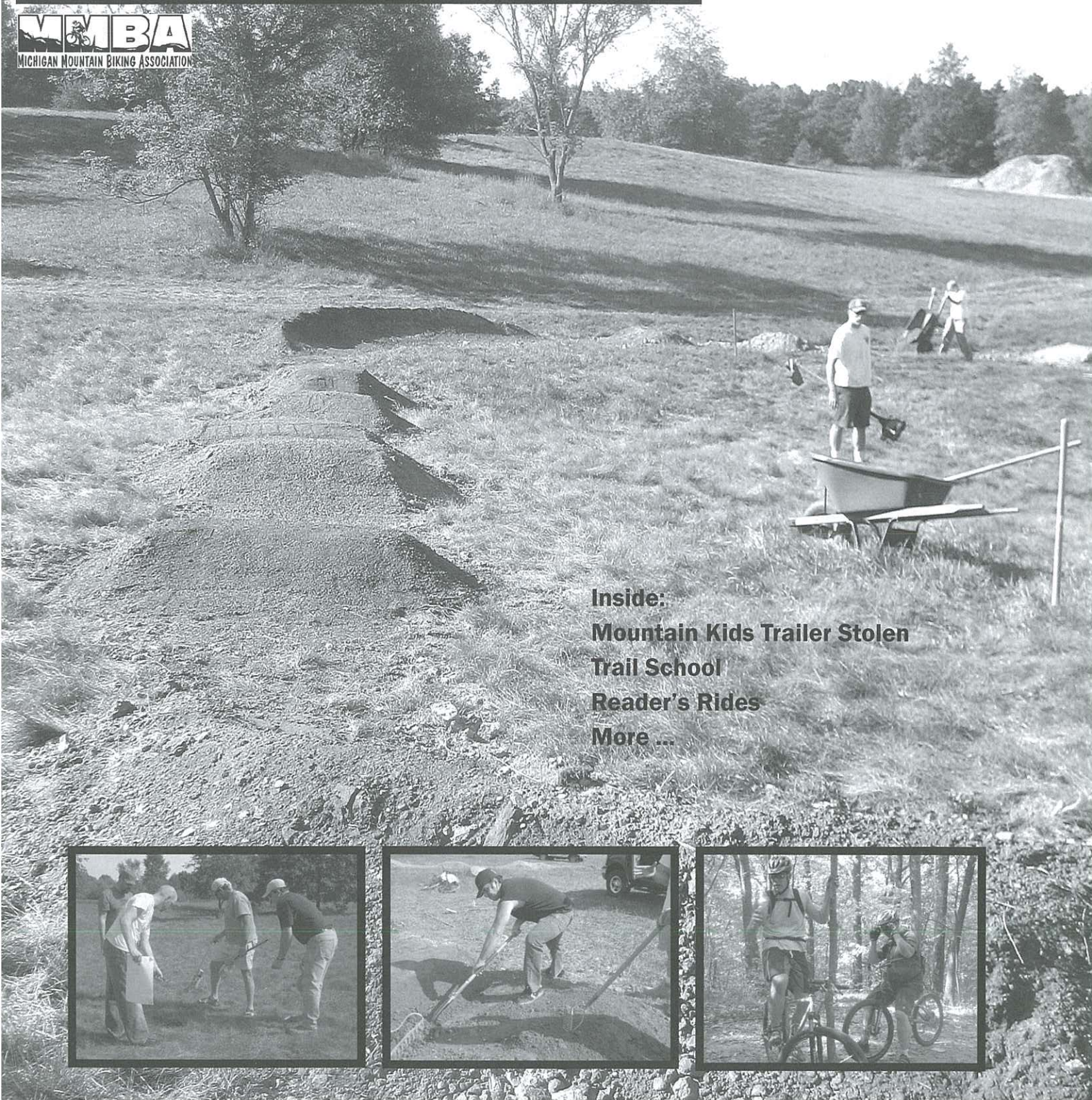


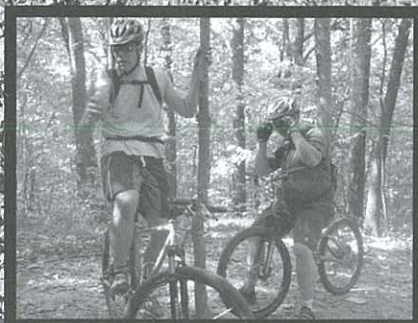
SPRING 2008 ISSUE No. 83

BENT RIM BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION



Inside:
Mountain Kids Trailer Stolen
Trail School
Reader's Rides
More ...



Cover:

Work on the Stony Creek Skills Park will resume in full force this spring

More info in Chapter Chatter



KONA HEI HEI 2-9

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The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users. The Bent Rim Bugle is published four times a year (March, June, Sept, Dec.) by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and distributed to all members. It is made possible by volunteers and riders like you.

Bent Rim Bugle

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Visit the MMBA on the web at:
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BRB Information

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) began over 15 years ago. Back then, the Michigan DNR was on the verge of closing all state land to mountain bikes. The BRB was the means for organizing the state's off road cyclists to work for continued access.

Today the BRB still carries the torch for off road advocacy, it has become the official newsletter of the MMBA. Published quarterly, the BRB keeps the MMBA membership up to date on what's happening throughout the State.

Contributing articles, artwork, and photos

If it's about mountain biking, please send it in. Electronic submissions should go to brb@mmba.org. We prefer documents in Microsoft Word, or simple text. Photos should be in jpg format and at least 300 dpi. We can't promise everything will get published, but we'll do our best. For more information on how to submit contact brb@mmba.org

Advertise in the BRB

The Bent Rim Bugle offers inexpensive and targeted advertising which helps with the cost of producing this cool newsletter.

Bike Patrol Director Wanted



The MMBA is seeking candidates for Michigan Mountain Bike Patrol director.

The Michigan Mountain Bike Patrol program organizes and supports volunteer bike patrols on trails in our state. Patrollers provide assistance to hikers, equestrians, and especially mountain bikers. They give information, provide directions, help with minor repairs, and provide first aid.

Spring 2008 Issue No. 83

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Contact us at brb@mmba.org for more info and ad rates.

Additional Copies

Additional copies of the BRB can be purchased for \$3.00 each, based on availability. Contact brb@mmba.org.

The fundamental goal of mountain bike patrols is to ensure trail access for mountain bikers. Mountain bike patrols work in cooperation with land managers to meet the specific needs of their local riding area.

The MMBP is an affiliate patrol of the National Mountain Bike Patrol program directed by the IMBA.

The MMBP director would coordinate patroller training each year, coordinate MMBP patrollers, work with land managers forming patrol programs at trail systems, and work with local and national sponsors of the patrol program.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Moss @ bikepatrol@mmba.org and Marne Smiley at execdir@mmba.org.

Cover Photos by Marty Shue

From the Desk of the Executive Director

By Marne Smiley



Annual Meeting and Expo follow-up

Thank you to all who braved the cold (outside and in!) on February 10th for the MMBA expo. We had two big changes for the annual meeting this year. We moved the speakers into their own smaller room for better flow and acoustics. And we held a silent in place of the raffle.

I would say our big success for the day was the silent auction which raised over \$5000 for the MMBA, a significant increase compared to the last year's raffle which brought in around \$750. The hottest item was definitely an all-expenses paid trip including airfare for two for a 5-day guided biking trip in the Grand Canyon courtesy of Escape Adventures. Other items up for grabs were guaranteed Iceman entries, 2 days in the yurt at the Poto, and Microbrewery sample case of Bells, Founders, Arbor Brewing Company, and Darkhorse Plenty of pickings for everyone, and with planning already in the works for next year, we hope to really get people excited!

A huge congratulations to the State Volunteer of the Year, Nick Shue. Nick is the president of the MetroNorth chapter and the vice president of the MMBA board. He seems to have his hands in everything from the website, the membership processing to securing sponsorship.....and we couldn't be more thankful. He works hard to make the MMBA a better organization and his thoughtful observations are always helpful. Thank you for a great year Nick and we are looking

forward to another!

I would also like to thank our volunteers that put in all their hard work this year. We over 10,000 hours on our trails and 258 earned an Ed Berta First Across the Finish Line Award of a brake rotor truing tool complete with the MMBA logo.

Website Changes

The website is upgrading and getting a face-lift. In early February we upgraded our server and are in the beginning stages of all new software and giving the website a face-lift. Our first phase will be in merchandise purchases on the web which we hope to have fully functional by mid-April. Store updates will be faster and easier and will have wishlists, gift certificates and discounts available to MMBA members. Stay tuned, the new store will also be debuting Mighty Good Coffee's MMBA blend, with 5% of all sales donated to the MMBA.

Mountain Kids Info

With the stolen mountain bike trailer, the MMBA board has not been the ones busy. The mountain biking community far and wide has really stepped up to replace our stolen trailer. We have received countless calls to help through donations, money and just volunteering.

A big thanks goes out to South Lyon Cycles in South Lyon who donated all 14 bikes and to Louis Garneau who has offered to replace 15 helmets. And thank you to all the other donations, our largest obstacle now is replacing the \$5000 trailer. Two big fundraising efforts are still underway to raise the additional funds.

IMBA will match up to \$2500 for Mountain Kids

The International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) has offered to match up to \$2500 in donations made from IMBA members for the Mountain Kids program.

It is easy, go to www.imba.com and click on the IMBA storefront tab and scroll down to make your donation.

Anyone can donate through the site. And we encourage everyone to do so. If you have been thinking of an IMBA membership? Join now and you will be able to help trails nationwide and replace the stolen Mountain Kids Trailer!

With your help the MMBA will be able to replace the stolen trailer and all of its contents. If you have any questions please contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org

Family comedy fundraiser for Mountain Kids Comedy Castle in Royal Oak is hosting a family comedy session on April 6th at 1:30. Three acts have confirmed.

Wyatt- 12yo comedian

Guy Copland magic show and radio personality on Magic 105.1

Tim Rowlands- comic juggler and great closer

with Gary George as the MC

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased online at www.comedycastle.com or at the door. This is all ages show open to the public, and will be fun for everyone. Enjoy an afternoon of fun and family while supporting a fundraiser. If you have any questions please e-mail Marne at execdir@mmba.org

Motor City Bootcamp Mountain Kids Fundraiser

We have already wrapped up one Mountain Kids Fundraiser, the MMBA partnered with Motor City Bootcamp on February 23rd for nearly two hours of tromping and training through Bloomer. Over 30 people ran, pushed cars, and planked their way to raising over \$600 for the Mountain Kids program. Motor City Bootcamp generously donated 100% of the money raised to the MMBA for the Mountain Kids program.

Advocacy :

Pigeon River Update

In November the MMBA rallied behind keeping The Shingle Mill Pathway in the Pigeon River Country open to bikes. Director Humphries at the time designated two working group sessions for mountain bikers and horsepeople to be heard. She approved the document, but did not assign land use orders which would have restricted mountain bikers to just roads.

On February 15th and 29th. The Executive Director, Marne Smiley and Northern Chapter President, Eric Isaacson represented the MMBA at the workgroup sessions for recreational use at the Pigeon River Country. The approximately 15-member group outlined the strength and weakness of the user-groups and the trail, and shared our opinions.

Although nothing is set in stone at the time

Although nothing is set in stone at the time of this going to press, I feel the MMBA was properly (and loudly) heard and our stance to keep The Shingle Mill Pathway open to bikes is being taken under serious consideration. I will keep you updated on any changes as more information becomes available.

Citizens committee for State Parks
The MMBA is working hard to have repre-

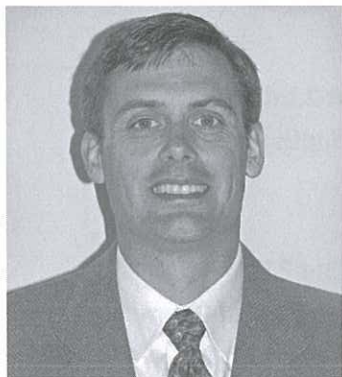
sentation on the Citizens committee for State Parks. Executive Director, Marne Smiley has been to all the meetings since October and with board members membership expiring in February there should be some good news in the pipeline any day now.

The CCSP is an advisory council to DNR Director Humphries on the best and most efficient processes to work with state parks.

One of the big initiatives on the committee's plate right now is the state park funding deficient. Michigan is lucky enough to have one of the highest area of land designated state parks, but right now does not have anything out of the general fund to support them. That is right nothing. The committee has put together a viable long-term funding proposal with the \$9 License Plate fee proposal.

Government Affairs Report

By John Gonway



As members of the Michigan Mountain biking Association, we face constant challenges gaining and defending access to the trails.

Advocacy has so many meanings that for many it means nothing. It means nothing until the "all politics are local" cliché smacks one square in the face when a "No Bicycles" sign is posted on one's local trail.

We faced just such a challenge recently on the Shingle Mill Pathway in Pigeon River Country (PRC). The Natural Resources Commission adopted A Concept of Management for the Pigeon River Country seeking to minimize the level of user activity in the PRC and maintain its identity as "The Big Wild".

Meetings were held by the NRC and ultimately the MMBA's Executive Director Marne Smiley, Board President Bill Mayer, Director of Advocacy Jason Jones and Director of Government Affairs John Gonway met with the DNR to help establish and take part in a working group to discuss the

use of the PRC by bicyclists and other user groups.

Through the hard work of these MMBA Directors, working hand in hand with the President of the MMBA Northern Chapter President Eric Isaacsen and other Northern Chapter members, our stewardship and political position was made known to the stakeholders of this important public resource. We now look forward to a promising land use order to be adopted by the DNR (confirm with Marne) that will preserve the access rights of bicyclists on the Shingle Mill Pathway.

But there was another important element in obtaining this result that will continue to allow bicycling on the Shingle Mill Pathway: you, are dedicated members. Your telephone calls, emails, and letters to the DNR, NRC, state senators and state representatives provided the political traction necessary for the result.

The result for snowmobilers and equestrians in the PRC does not hold the same promise as they face land use orders either prohibiting or severely limiting the continued use of the PRC. While this is regrettable for their constituencies, it demonstrates the necessary contributions of stewardship and political activism necessary to preserve rights

The next hurdle is the preservation of access to the North Country Trail; a section of the North Country Trail is being positioned for re-routing near the town of Mesick. The re-route is a great idea by most accounts, but the North Country Trail Association has expressed the desire of making this portion of the NCT a hiker-only trail.

It is a re-route that will be on private property owned by Consumers Power and thus negotiations are under way with Consumers and the NCTA to keep this part of the NCT and maintain it as part of a multi-user system instead of excluding bikers.

It is our hope to work together with Consumers and the NCTA to find the common ground necessary to keep a world-class trail together as one cohesive multi-user trail as much as possible. The effort is challenging since the things we have in common with hikers far exceed our differences, yet a restriction on our use to their trails in the face of our open to all/sharing mentality is a difficult tightrope to walk.

Look for more updates on the NCT in the future.

Finally, the political climate has stalled out movement on the proposal adopted by the Citizens Committee for State Parks; the proposal included a \$9 per vehicle fee to be assessed by the Secretary of State and provide a means of funding State Parks and Boat Launches. Included in the proposal was the right of vehicle registrant to opt-out of the fee. This \$9 fee would result in a reduction of fees since it would replace the \$24 parking sticker fee for State Parks—parking stickers would no longer be necessary since every registered vehicle would have a license plate that would act as the pass.

A similar plan is used in Montana where it provides much better funding for State Parks.

Trail Access: fight for it or resign yourself to the road bike.



Michigan's Premier Grassroots Mountain Bike Racing Series

CPS

Championship Point Series Schedule

**The CPS raises funds to directly support ongoing
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Sunday, April 20th
Yankee Springs Western Chapter
Benefit - TT

Sunday, May 4th
Fort Custer Southwest Chapter
Benefit - XC

Sunday, June 1st
Hanson Hills Challenge - XC

Saturday, July 12th
Boyne Challenge - Marathon XC
*Double rider points will be
awarded!*

Sunday, July 27th
Stony Creek - TT

Saturday, August 23rd
Maybury Metro South Chapter
Benefit - XC

Sunday, September 21st
Addison Oaks Metro North Chap-
ter Benefit - XC

Sunday, September 28th
Pando Challenge - XC

More information:
www.MMBA.org or CPS@MMBA.org



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GARY FISHER



Mountain Kids Trailer Stolen

By Marne Smiley

The MMBA has been struck with unfortunate news yesterday morning. The Mountain Kids trailer was reported stolen early this morning by Mountain Kids Director, Jason Tink. The trailer was being stored in covered parking at well-lit commercial site in Farmington Hills off of Northwestern Highway.

A police report was filed with the Farmington Hills police and local agents will be notified to be on the lookout, but according to the authorities the likelihood of a recovery of the trailer or its contents are slim. The trailer was home to all of the Mountain Kids Program equipment, including eight 20-inch Giant bikes and six 24-inch Novara bikes, 40 helmets, tools, and a custom bike rack made for the trailer.

"This is a major loss to the MMBA," Tink said. "It has always been a very secure storage facility, and I hate that it happened while on my watch."



In light of these tragic circumstances, The MMBA is working partnership within the community to replace the trailer and its contents. The Feb 10th annual meeting will be holding a silent auction in place of a raffle to raise money for Mountain Kids and our other MMBA programs.

If you should see the trailer please contact your local authorities. The MMBA will notify you with any further developments. If you would like to make a donation to the MMBA or to the silent auction items please contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org



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Trail School

By Dennis Murphy

In April 2003, I began, though I didn't know it, the next phase of my involvement with the MMBA. I went to the local bike shop in the spring of 1998 to buy a newer, fancier road bike. I walked out of the shop with a new Giant ATX750. Now that I had a mountain bike, where do I ride it? I found the MMBA, joined and have been involved ever since

Trail school ensures a systematic method for passing on the knowledge of sustainable trail building. The trail school serves as a PR tool for the MMBA. Trails, of course, can get built by non-MMBA volunteers (and sometimes do), but the MMBA has a history as an organization. These two factors give land managers confidence we will execute and maintain.

Over the years, I've volunteered to do a wide variety of roles within the MMBA. I've been a chapter vice-president, chapter president, trail coordinator and state board member. I've served on the membership committee, CPS race committee, tabulated race points and, finally, served as a regional trail school instructor. I participated in Dan's inaugural

trail school in April 2003 where a dozen of us happily served as guinea pigs. I then worked in the western area as a regional trail school instructor. I am also aware of the fact that there are volunteers in our organization with vastly more experience than I have and some with a decade longer background building trails. Dan created a great, comprehensive program upon which I hope to continue to build.

My early goal is to identify each chapter's trail coordinators, verify all participants in trail school and which level they completed (i.e. 101, 102, 201). The next goal is to identify volunteers from this pool that would be interested in operating as regional trainers. The third goal, in conjunction with our advocacy director, will be to link trail school with advocacy by involving the trail coordinators in the planning phases. Simultaneously, we will use trail school to increase the technical ability of volunteers to maintain trails and take this task off the shoulders of trail coordinators who can then focus on adding trails or creating sustainability. Finally, all trails should have a back-up or co-trail coordinator.

Speaking of trail coordinators, they've likely been through Trail School, have years of experience, or both. The MMBA invests in

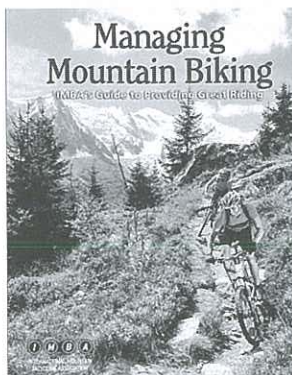
these capable people to manage the trails they've taken under their care to determine re-routes (when necessary) and communicate with land managers. A football team works within the thirty-second parameter to huddle and then execute a play. Imagine a team where eleven guys debate the best course of action in the huddle. They'd soon be penalized for not snapping the ball in the thirty-second window! Our trail coordinators and volunteers donate and work within valuable, limited time. The TCs plan in advance the necessary work to be done on a trail day. Though minor changes always occur depending on terrain and features, wholesale debate chews through valuable volunteer time. If you want to participate in trail planning activities, the best option is to get involved in your chapter, link up with the trail coordinator of the trail you most like to work on and volunteer at trail days. You can also watch for the gradual implementation of our advocacy director's "adopt a section" initiative as a means to get more involved in trail management.

In closing- I am easy to reach. Email works best and you can use trailschool@mmba.org



Managing Mountain Biking:

IMBA's Guide to Providing Great Riding



What makes one trail a success, while another is unpopular or the source of conflict? Why do some trails last for decades with minimal maintenance, while

others require expensive repairs? *Managing Mountain Biking* gives solutions for these and dozens of other trail-related dilemmas.

Written for professional land managers, volunteers, and recreation providers alike,

this 256-page book offers an essential collection of best practices for planning, designing, and managing successful trail networks and bike parks.

Price: \$35 (IMBA members receive a 10 percent discount.

Managing Mountain Biking is a companion to IMBA's popular trailbuilding how-to book *Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack*. Together, the two books provide a complete resource for better trail recreation.

More than 50 experts - including land managers, recreation ecologists, professional trailbuilders, and experienced advocates - contributed to *Managing Mountain Biking* creating the most complete reference of its kind. Strategies are clearly described with the aid of 270 color photos and 25 helpful illustrations; dozens of success stories from around the globe provide real-world examples of effective trail management.

Edited by IMBA veteran Pete Webber, this new book expands significantly on *Trail Solutions*. It breaks new ground with advice on overcoming user conflict, minimizing environmental impact, managing risk, and providing technically challenging riding. While *Trail Solutions* covered trail construction, *Managing Mountain Biking* focuses on solving mountain biking issues through innovative trail design, effective partnerships, and visitor management strategies.

The book was developed with financial support from the U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program along with sponsorship from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program and the states of Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Minnesota.

Details: Paperback, 256 pages, 8.5" x 11", 270 color photos, 25 illustrations, index, published March, 2007.

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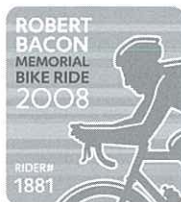
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JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Metro South Chapter Opens Hearts and Wallets

By Joe Foy

This past February the Metro South Chapter was proud to be the sponsor and organizer of the "Pedal For Power" event held in conjunction with Project Warmth. The Pedal for Power, a part of the WWJ News Radio 950 Winter Survival Radiothon was held February 8 - 9 at the Boll Family YMCA in downtown Detroit, it challenges riders of all levels to pedal a special exercycle that changes human energy into electricity to light a giant light bulb – the "beacon of warmth" and the symbol of hope for the 2008 Radiothon. We kept it lit for the entire 31 hours of the Radiothon with great riders from:

Beat the Train Detroit
Team Tree Farm
Team Sign Outfitters
Detroit Bikes
Metro Detroit Cycling
Racing Greyhounds
Trips for Kids Detroit
Even our own Executive Director, Marne Smiley & President, Bill Mayer gave of their time

DTE Energy doubled ALL contributions made during the last hour of the event. This was worth over \$130,000 or more in energy assistance to families facing a serious financial crisis and consequently, utility shut off.

By keeping people safe and warm in their own homes, THAW helps avoid community problems that occur when a family loses their utilities – homelessness, theft, vandalism of vacant houses and the disruption of normal daily activities such as the kids attending their regular school or work because the family had to move to a temporary shelter or worse. Fires, illness and even death may be prevented because people won't need to resort to using dangerous alternate sources of energy such as candles or space heaters. Having heat...it's something most of us take for granted. But imagine how you would feel if you couldn't afford to heat your home?

Below is a copy of the letter that was sent to the MMBA for their effort in this great cause. Again I would like to thank each and every rider who gave so unselfishly of their time to help their fellow human, mountain bikers RAWK!!!!

Joseph -

It is with very special thanks that I write this e-mail on behalf of WWJ Newsradio 950 and THAW, The Heat and Warmth Fund. Your effort of advertising and recruitment of Michigan Mountain Bike Association riders for the fifth annual Winter Survival Radiothon's Pedal for Power event was extremely generous and deeply appreciated. Please pass along my sincere thanks

to all MMBA participants.

The Pedal for Power event made a huge difference in the success of the Radiothon. Alone, Pedal for Power raised \$133,000 in "heat help." Contributions continue to come in and as of today, the Radiothon total is in excess of \$540,000. With the special energy matches from THAW's energy partners including DTE Energy, the proceeds from the Radiothon are currently approaching \$1,500,000.

The outpouring of compassion by the metropolitan Detroit community is truly heart-warming and in this case, "home warming," too. This year, THAW will assist over 2,000 families in crisis to cope with their utility bills. And now, because of your generosity, life looks a whole lot brighter for more of these families struggling to make ends meet during the long, cold winter.

Your support helped to make the fifth annual Winter Survival Radiothon the most successful ever. More importantly, it was a tremendous affirmation of the wonderful things that can be accomplished when good people get together to work for a common goal.

With warm regards and thanks,

Todd Redden
WWJ Newsradio 950

Announcing the New Michigan Trails Finder

Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (MTGA) announces the new Michigan Trails Finder. This is a new online resource for planning your next trail adventure. It is a digital map of trails, both single and shared-use, linked with information you need to know . . . before you go!

You will find the following features: Length and Surface, Allowed Trail Uses, Interactive Links to Individual Trail Websites, GPS Coordinates (where available), and Contact Info for More Details. The database runs as an interface with the convenience of Google navigation to help you get there. The Trails Finder is on-line at www.michigantrails.org/map

Mt. Snow Ride

By Pete Hall

I could see him up ahead, just around the bend of the trail. Even through the watery haze left from earlier rains, I could follow his mud speckled blue riding shorts following the ebb and flow of the contoured mud track. He was maybe 30 seconds ahead of me, but he was obviously faltering from his choppy pedal stroke and dropped shoulders. He bounced clumsily off the rocks, wasting precious energy, letting me close the gap between us. I deftly picked my way through the mud covered rocks and mossy roots, and let my gaze go up to him again. "He is mine," I thought to myself, as I dropped my drive train to a harder gear, accelerating up to him. Looking over his shoulder, he realized that I was coming and stood up to accelerate, trying to keep his now minimal gap.

It was however in vain, the sticky mud slowing his progress as I climbed the wet mountain ever closer to his wheel.

Thinking of all the long, lonely February rides and the hard April intervals I had done, I knew I could catch him. Catch him and pass him. I had prepared to fly right by him all season long. I stood and smoothly powered my way up a short, slick grassy rise as the trail traversed an open ski run. Now I could hear his labored breathing, hear how heavily he was sucking in the thick, damp mud tinged air. I too could taste the grime kicked up from several laps around Mt. Snow and smell the dank forest, but I loved the scent. It had the fragrance of triumph. Nearing the top of the mountain, I knew the sopping wet danger that was waiting our tired legs. The downhill would be long and arduous, but I had victory in my head, and no amount of



greasy roots and jagged rocks could stop me now.

"On your left!" I hollered as I accelerated around him. My legs burned with the fire of lactic acid as I rumbled across the last up-hill rock garden. Its momentum killing crevices nothing as I smoothly kept pouring on the power. He gave a halfhearted attempt at keeping my wheel, but it was folly and he

sat back down on his saddle defeated. I gave myself one last

gloating look back at my vanquished opponent; saw his down cast eyes and gapping, gasping mouth, and dropped into the hellacious rocky downhill.

The trees were coming fast now; the rocks were a minor concern at such a pace. Keeping my body loose, I let my machine roll across the rooted track, feeling more and more confident and fluid with each drop and turn. Spectators and forest became one singular being as my mind tunneled in on the mud in my path. A blur of far away cheering and pungent flying mud were my only companions as I thundered down the mountain. In my concentrated glee I was suddenly almost down, 15 minutes of slimy roots and piercing rock simply a blur of elation. The obstacles in my path were no longer formidable foes of the mountain, but were simply tired and defeated roots and rocks. Their mouths gasping for air as my tires pounded them down.

GR BMX

Kisscross and the Fusion cycling team will be hosting a race to raise funds for the new Grand Rapids BMX track (GRBMX). All proceeds from the race will be used towards completing the construction of the track and the support facilities. The GR BMX track will provide a great avenue for encouraging our youth to get involved with cycling and ensure the growth of our sport for years to come.

The race is scheduled for Sunday, April 13 at the GRBMX track facility, near 131 and Burton Street. The race will consist of three events; one for cyclocross bikes, mountain bikes, and BMX. All categories will compete on a dirt course set up on the track and the trails of the GRBMX facility. Additional race information, including the event flyer can be viewed at Fusion's team website (www.fusioncycling.org).

For more info contact -

Eric Kimber
Fusion Cycling Team
616-446-8522

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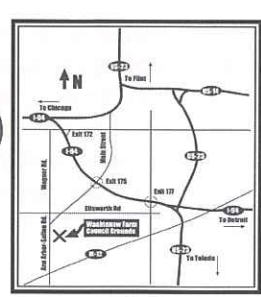
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CASH AWARDS FOR BIKE OF THE YEAR!

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Chapter Chatter

Metro North Chapter Report

<http://metronorth.mmba.org>

Thanks for the large turnout at the January chapter meeting and 2008 elections. The currently standing chapter officers were nominated and reelected uncontested. So, the current Metro North officers are:

Nick Shue - President
Mike Moss - Vice President
Jody DeLavern - Treasurer
Martha Shue - Secretary

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2008 have been scheduled. Meetings will be held on April 21st, July 21st, and October 20th. They will all be held at Rochester Mills Brewing Company in the meeting room. Meetings begin @ 6:30PM.

Upcoming chapter trail days are:
Bloomer Park in Rochester. April 13th 9AM to 3PM. Trail maintenance and race preparation.

At the April 21st meeting, we will form some committees to start planning upcoming chapter events. If you are interested in helping out, please be sure to attend this meeting. These events will be the Addison Oaks Fall XC Race, the 2008 Massive Fallout, and the BBBB (Bulletin Board Biker Bash)

No further information has been received from St Clair County Parks and Recreation Dept. regarding the next meetings for the new Columbus Park. We'll continue to keep the chapter members, and all St Clair county residents, up to date regarding meetings and progress on this new park and trail system.

Keep your eyes open on the chapter website for upcoming trail days as we hope to build new trail at Addison Oaks in the spring (after final planning of the route with park officials) and continued work on the Stony Creek Skills Park. We will finish the work on the pump track, and start work on the wooden stunts on the freeride loop. As soon as the dates are set, we will have updates on the main and chapter websites.

Metro South

We had a great turnout considering the snowstorm everyone had to fight to get to the meeting, even I was late....imagine that! I would like to thank Frank(VP) for grabbing the reigns and taking care of the meeting. I would like to take the time to thank my fellow Metro South Chapter Board members, Frank & Claudia Bean, Dave Poirie & Dave Cox, without them I would crumble. We have such a strong chapter with all the great members & volunteers. I'm so proud to represent each and everyone of you and will continue to do so with great pride. Looking forward to a great riding season and meeting all of you on a great trail.

Joe Foy (Hockeydaddy)
President
Metro South Chapter
MMBA

MMBA 2/6/08

Meeting

Station 885 Plymouth 6:30

Approval of Minutes

Update on trails

Commerce/Hickory Glen- - James Altmann/Justin Applegate- Great winter trail. Great SS trail. A few leaned trees, but no danger. Ki-osk- approved by city, just logistics now. It should be in by summer. Location is decided. Trail days TBA. Late March or early April. Clean up or reroutes only, no new trail. Signs and maps will be put in- needs updated GPS assessment.

Highland- no report

Hines- Mike Flack- Overlaps with Holiday Park. Making it an MMBA sanctioned trail is on hold until more cohesive long range goals, plans, and communication is worked out with all the user groups. Be cautious and courteous as you ride as some bridges are out and maintenance is intermittent, as well as it being a highly populated area among the various user groups. In the meantime, proposals to and discussion with Wayne County to go over the option of about five areas along the Hines area are ongoing. Small Hines committee can walk the areas this spring. There are maps, but they need

to be updated and new photos need to be taken. REI Rouge Grant was reallocated to Hines. We need to check if there a deadline to use it.

ILRA- no report. May need Proxy TC while John Burt is away.

Lakeshore/Novi- Dave Cox- downed trees will be cleared soon. May 3 is trail day. It will be for maintenance, no new cuts, and to install new signage and arrows. A full day of trail work will get the crew a park pass. The crater log is no more. City may have day camp in early summer, for kids which may include MTBiking instructions. 4 days, 3 hrs a day. TTF Relay 8/2/08. Novi is looking at land close to Maybury for a city trail that may be a nice lead in to Lakeshore.

Maybury- Dave Poirer- First winter opened- so far trail is doing fine. No bad feedback. Race 8/23/08 Chapter event;, only CPS in Metro South. \$500 given to Timing Guys to lock them in. It will be a time trial this year. Approval for new parking lot near Beck Road. It will be 300 x 300. Trail guide on web site still shows closed in winter, plus other trail signs show closed in WI until this year's trial is over.

Milford- Bill Hermann- paved path will go through the middle this summer. Trail is ridden a lot! Trail date TBA. Milford Challenge- possibly June 7th, but there is a race at Brighton that day. We need to check Tailwind race site to see how many went last year to see if that would interfere or not before date is set. Milford Memories Day has kids events and they have requested MMBA to do something- it is second weekend in August which is O2S weekend. But, we could have an MMBA presence at event- good publicity. Milford would be a good location for the IMBA Ride Center Initiative (Featured in November _Dirt Rag_ and on their web site-

<http://www.dirtmag.com/print/article.php?ID=986&category=departments>).

There is an area for freeride opportunities- need people to build. It would be better for human made structures, but not a good location for teeter totters. There is a ton of wood available.

Munson- no report

Proud Lake- Bill Hermann- Meeting with DNR later this week to discuss multi use issues of trail. Will it be better to cross trails, share trails or have separate trails? MTB trail must not be a swampy area. Goal of MTB trail length- 8 miles. Metro Parks are getting the connector set up to Kensington. Trail date TBA.

Kiosks in Metro South- Commerce/Hickory Glen, Highland and ILRA and Maybury.

Kiosk funds are now available for all trails. Tools are arriving for TC's. Please contact Dave Poirer for information about pick up. Some Kiosks are in Metro North chapter, so a group needs to get coordinated on doing the building for those who need help. Perhaps a Kiosk Committee needed. However, if you are ready and able to build it sooner, go ahead. If you need help, utilize the expertise of the Kiosk Committee when it is set up. TC's at meeting tonight are to pick up tools from Dave. P. at the end of the meeting. General funds for Kiosks 800 each. 650 before REI medallions.

Trail dates- post up, put on calendar, put on trail notes ASAP so dates don't overlap.

TC School- Dave Cox and Mike Flack. Plan classroom session day before an actual trail day. Saturday- training, trail day Sunday or even a trail school on Friday evening before a trail day Saturday. They will discuss. TC's, let them know your trail dates as they plan the TC School dates.

Freeride committee- no report

Chapter events for Spring- events held in the Metro South area

Demo Day at ILRA- James Knight is contact person. Demo lots of bikes!

Milford challenge- overnight options possible. Check costs of Proud Lake dorms. Coordinate with other biking groups who have outdoor classes/group events.

Needs discussion- Is Metro North doing a BBBB event in Fall? Is Metro South doing an event in spring? The challenge with spring is trail days and weather. Joe will contact Nick about Fall BBBB.

Idea- How about tie into ILRA Demo Day-

sponsored by bike company reps. Spring Kick off idea to coordinate with Demo Day- rustic cabin and org. campgrounds- need to be booked. Opportunity for a whole week-end of events! For example, if we run a MTB 101 Clinic-need instructors. Friday- camp-fire, Sat demo day, Sunday more events.

MMBA Expo - Booth decoration-participants will bring banner, tri-folds. And PC slide shows with trail info and past events running on laptop. 10 x 10 space, table, checklist of items to bring will be reviewed before Sunday. We will have a donation jar, hummus, a coat rack and an espresso coffee center, for example.

Metro South e-mails go to chapter secretary and president. Address for chapter-

metrosouth@mmba.org

Metro South web site- Frank will work on updating it soon. Still says southeast- will be changed to Metro South. Want to post all info on our board and reference it on the MMBA overall board and draw people to our board.

FAFL- No hours for 2008 reported yet. Hours should come though TC's. Awards for 2007 will be at expo.

Financial Report
Metro South Chapter, MMBA
Treasurer's Report for 4th Qtr. 2007

1. Balance as of 10/1/2007 \$11,775.87
 - a. Income
 - i. Annual BBBB 630.00
 - ii. Dividend Parkside 2007 44.78
 - iii. MMBA payment 111.60
 - iv. Downriver Cycling Club 250.00
 - v. Race proceeds (Novi) 500.00
 - vi. Kiosk money (\$650 per) 2600.00
 - vii. Total \$4,136.38
 - b. Expenses
 - i. Allied Printing 371.53
 - ii. CPS fee 292.00
 - iii. Supplies for Race (Maybury) 401.62
 - iv. Mailing cost for Maybury race 233.13
 - v. Postage supplies 14.76
 - vi. Total \$1312.88

Checking Account total \$14,599.51
REI grant - \$4,500.00
Total \$10,099.51

Some TC tools are purchased- McClouds

and more to be bought. They were bought from firefighters' web site. The Pulaskis will be available in March. There will be one per trail, plus a collapsible wheelbarrow. Let board know if you need other tools as the chapter has funds to get tools!!!

Other items- chapter board meets monthly to keep going on topics.

IMBA Ride Center Facility around country; 5-6 being established. It will have a trail, bike rentals, training, staffing, be located near a trail head, help to combine trails, can get downtown councils involved. See link above.

CPS- Andy Staub is Metro South CPS Rep. Cris Cataldo has moved on to do other MMBA tasks.

Business cards- Will be worked on after Expo.

Next meeting- April Wednesday 16th. Station 885.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Bean, AKA Froggyrider"

Joe(Hockeydaddy)
Team Tree Farm
MMBA

Mid-State Chapter News

On May 10th, 2008 Adrian Parks and Recreation along with the Mid-State Chapter will be hosting the 12th annual Hare Racer at Heritage Park.

Here is the schedule of events:

9:00 Adult Day of Reg. Opens
9:30 Adult (16 & up) Race begins (on long, singletrack course)
10:00 Youth Reg. Opens
11:30* 3-5 training wheel division
11:15* 3-5 without training wheels
12:00 6-8
12:30 9-11
1:00 12-15

This is a very beginner friendly race, low key and grass roots. Now that the kids race for free, the numbers have been going up. And 16 and over pay only \$18, or \$15 for City residents. For \$6, you can get a t-shirt, too (please pay by 4/25 to ensure correct size).

The races official sponsors include Adrian Locksmith & Cyclery, Iddings & Iddings, PLLC (my firm), and the Michigan Association for Justice (which provides free helmets for the kids).

Mid-State Chapter Picnic

The chapter will be hosting our annual picnic on June 15th at Burchfield Park in Holt. In addition, we will be incorporating our inaugural Poker Run event. This will be a fun filled event for the entire family with prizes from Canari, Santa Cruz, Go Pro Camera, E13 components, Park Tools, and more... There will be a \$10 buy in for each hand and you will have the opportunity to purchase/exchange a card for \$5 to better your hand. We will have prizes for the best hand and worst hand. All proceeds benefit the MidState chapter. (Note: date and location have changed since previous BRB article)

Volunteers Needed

Starting in late March, we will be having trail dates at many of our local trails. In addition to the annual raking at Burchfield, we will also be working at Sleepy Hollow and possibly building new trail in SW Lansing. Please help maintain the trails that you ride (and even the trails you don't ride). Check the mmba.org forum and the Mid-State forum (www.onfal.com) for exact dates and times.

We will need volunteers for the Poker Run and Picnic on June 15. Help at the event, bring your bike, your family, and hang out for the day. If we get enough people, everybody will be able to both volunteer and ride in the Poker Run. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you know of somebody who would be willing donate cash or food, please contact Chris Mensing at cmensing76@yahoo.com.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to act as "bike shop liaisons". Your only duty is to keep the lines of communication open between the MMBA and the local bike shops. We have a few shops covered, but if there is a shop that you frequent and would be willing to spend a few minutes chatting to them about the MMBA and bikes, contact Chris Mensing (cmensing76@yahoo.com).

Northern Chapter

Eric Isaacsen is again the chapter president after being absent from the board scene for a couple of years. We have a complete board now including: New VP – Dan O'Neill, Treasurer - Jamie Green (past president), Secretary – Ali Bridson, and at large – David Scott

We have a new energy and enthusiasm and are working diligently at getting the MMBA message out however we are severely hampered by way too much ground to cover and not nearly enough help. In essence, our active membership consists of our chapter board. The northern chapter is in real need of downsizing the borders and allowing for the free formation of other chapters as was discussed and voted on at a board meeting recently.

Because of the vast area we cover the newly elected chapter board will be focusing on a very small area and the trails within that area. Our primary focus is on the High Country Pathway – Michigan's *ONLY* IMBA Epic trail, parts of the North Country Trail, Aspen Park, Hanson Hills and the Shingle Mill Pathway. Other trails located in our existing chapter boundaries are already covered by other bicycling organizations such as the Cherry Capital Cycling Club in Traverse City, Thunder Bay Cycling Association in Alpena and the other groups/clubs located throughout the other portions of the northern Lower Peninsula and the entire Upper Peninsula.

By focusing our limited time and people on the trails we ride the most we can have the biggest positive impact on our chapter instead of trying to deal with trails we rarely, if ever ride. It has been my experience, being the former president, that many of the other trails have entirely different concerns regarding land ownership, trail conditions, rider ship and types of trails being laid out. As an example, the Upper Peninsula property is primarily divided between mining, lumber and national forest ownership and management. Our area is primarily divided between private, state forest and military ownership/management. Conversely, downstate trails are divided between state parks, metro parks and local city land ownership/management. As you see, there are very distinct management issues that cannot be handled by one chapter, even though the

boundaries show otherwise.

Any persons who may be interested in forming a new chapter within our existing boundaries have the blessings of the northern chapter board. The more people interested in spreading the MMBA message the better. Remember, volunteerism is very often the last thing people add to their plates and the first thing removed. If people want to volunteer and open up a new chapter up here, let them. We can certainly use the help and don't have an ego so big that this many thousand square mile chapter can't handle. Welcome all comers to the volunteerism plate and let them feast on their local trails.

As you now know, we restructured our chapter boundaries which leave plenty of open space for newcomers to help out. We are also renaming our chapter to the North Central Chapter, which more closely represents our geographic area and makes us easy to identify. We will also be restructuring our board composition and will appoint a different individual to be our board representative.

In other news: The fight continues in the Pigeon River Forest Country. Recently the DNR director Humphries approved the Final Draft of the Pigeon River Forest Country Management Plan in which biking is banned on all trails except the HCP and those approved by the director.

The director has yet to approve the Shingle Mill Pathway which is why we still have a battle to wage. Myself, and your ED, Marne Smiley are part of a Pigeon River Country Recreation Work Group that is to meet February 15, 2008 at the Ralph A MacMullen Conference Center. We are part of 19 people representing equestrians, mountain bikers, resource stewards, PRC association, US Forest Service, hunting, DNR staff, chairperson and facilitator. It appears as though this work group is composed of an appropriate mixture of interests.

The meeting was both positive and negative from a mountain biker's perspective. On the positive side, we were provided a real opportunity to effect a difference in the decision making process. We are a recognized user group that has now "arrived" at the decision making table. It provided both Marne and me an opportunity to try to get straight an-

swers from the DNR on a number of different issues, primarily though being of a financial nature. What we are dealing with is a huge financial donation from the Pittman Robinson Funds. This funding group comprises 50% of the funding of the Pigeon River Forest Country. The organization is very specific in their language which states that only activities "compatible with hunting will be allowed." They go on to deem that mountain biking and horse back riding are not compatible activities. While we could argue this point, (which is pointless), our use has been effected but has not risen its ugly head until now. The document goes on to say, however, biking trails that "go through" the property are exempt, which is why the High Country Pathway was not listed.

The actual length of the Shingle Mill Pathway is only 6.3 miles including the alternate route up by Section Four Lake. The eastern half of the Shingle Mill Pathway is actually the HCP. So this entire issue is just about 6.3 miles of linear trail less than 3 feet wide, which has been there since at least the mid 1980's.

We have, once again, been lumped into the same group as equestrians. The Pigeon River issue is, and has been, equestrian use, abuse and bandit trails. I cried foul at the meeting as we went through the subject matter. I requested that biking remain now and forever an entirely separate recreational activity than horse back riding. It seems as though the DNR picked us because they didn't want the equestrians to feel singled out. This is evident by the majority of the comments at the meeting and the composition of the meeting packet which had three complete documents, plus a copy of an unsigned Land Use Order, on equestrians and nothing at all on mountain biking issues.

I will be contacting the DNR chair of this group and ask that the MMBA be publicly recognized at this meeting as being a "valuable partner" to the DNR, as I was told privately. By a simple public statement as that, our presence and efforts at conservation have been validated. Our status as an official partner of the Pigeon River Country will be a permanent part of the future of this piece of property.

While I was told that the DNR would make a

public statement at the meeting, no such statement was made even though the DNR had the floor for quite a few minutes explaining other relevant items. I suppose some things will never change when it comes to a public acknowledgement of our relationship and supposed value we represent.

Anyhow, the meeting went well. I had an opportunity to use a map and actually show everyone how small a footprint the SMP actually is in comparison to the 105,000 or so acres that comprise the PRC. In doing a round table tally during the meeting by the facilitator, approximately 85% of the people at the meeting supported biking on both the Shingle Mill Pathway and the near Pickerel Lake Campground trails used by campers in that campground. The recommendations made by the workgroup will go to the director for her final decision in April at the NRC meeting. You all know how I feel about the composition of the NRC but we will see. I have done everything possible to reopen the Shingle Mill Pathway to bikers, now we just have to be patient and hope that our efforts, letters, petitions and my attendance at several meetings will have done us some good.

The Michigan Bike Festival is back by popular demand. Visit www.michiganbikefestival.org for more details. Initial plans include live music all weekend, social bonfire, pig roast, bike games, orienteering, and a Lance Armstrong Foundation charity ride. We will also feature bike manufacturers, bike shops, a swap meet and other cool stuff. One of the best treats is brand new singletrack to ride at Hanson Hills Recreation Area, home of The Michigan Bike Festival.

We will be seeking volunteers to help build out an additional ten miles of singletrack with the launch being the upcoming Trail School April 26 and 27, 2008.

Here it is, time to write about spring and the most fantastic winter in many years is still in full force. By the end of March we should have bare ground and the probability of frozen morning earth promises some of the fastest trails of the year. While it is perfectly okay to ride frozen trails, remember to leave no trace. Plan spring rides to end before the thaw. Encourage others to ride responsibly and stay off muddy or soft trails.

What has the Southwest chapter done this glorious winter? Well, we just had Snowfest! A sunny calm day on Whitford Lake. With food a bonfire and fun outdoor activities. The lake was smooth ice covered by an inch and a half of fluffy snow. Excellent for XC skis and hockey skates, but a little slippery for mountain biking. Some found fun with the giant slingshot hurling snow balls at friends. Well, at least they started out friends. Under the "do not try this at home without adult supervision" heading comes the headline "Man Injured by Bungee Cord". It seems an impromptu sport evolved from a plastic disc sled, an ice rink, and 10 feet of bungee cord. It seems that rapid acceleration turns to thrill if the sled is held stationary and an elastic cord is stretched to near breaking and then someone lets go of the sled. Ask Shane Thompson next time you see him what happens if the cord is stretched too far. Ouch!

On the not so wonderful side of winter sits the day of the MMBA annual meeting. That morning I awakened to howling wind and heavy blowing snow. I called Cathy and suggested we not try anything heroic. She didn't have electric power either. We spent the day in survival mode with our wood stove and home made electricity. This was the first annual meeting I have missed since 1991. Hope you had a great time there. This year for the second time we chose Amy Simmons for Volunteer of the year. While there are many more hard working volunteers deserving merit in our chapter, Amy was the clear choice.

Help support trails in Michigan by taking part in the Yankee Springs Time Trial and the Fort Custer Stampede. You can become a contestant or volunteer to help with the events.

In addition to all the sweat equity put into the Fort Custer trails there is the contribution of more than \$35,000 by the Southwest MMBA and the Stampede participants. My column must be brief this issue as we are in battle to save the green loop at Fort Custer Rec from rezoning and introduction of disc golf in its place. Hopefully you heard in time to join us in protecting our natural resources.

It's about the ride, not the bicycle
Mike Needham.

Western Chapter

A written agreement with Kent County Parks was signed in January. This agreement opens access to create multi-use trails in Luton Park. The first loop of a stacked loop system has been submitted to the Parks. Building is scheduled to start this Spring.

Several new faces in the chapter. Thanks for stepping up.

- MC Stoddard- events chair
- Jason and Jenn Bechtel- TT committee
- Guy Buckingham- Ionia SRA
- Craig and Kelly Hoffman- Hungerford Lake
- Dennis Brown- CSGA
- Ron Johnston- ASGA
- Tony Brownell- Ski Area

A special thanks to the TNR riders for their continued support.

GVSU student Bridget Brown has selected a GPS mapping inventory of western trails as a senior capstone project. Upon completion we will receive accurate and up-to-date trail maps. This allows us to add our trails to various GIS projects through out the state. Professor Grif, chair of the natural resources department at GVSU, has made this project and a steady stream of student volunteers possible.

A recreation use study is starting at Yankee Springs SRA. the study is anticipated to run between 18-24 months. The desired outcome is increased trail access and improved trailhead facilities. As information is released, including schedules for open meetings for public comment- we will distribute it. The city of Grand Rapids is updating the recreation master plan and including green-space use in a community based forum called Green Grand Rapids. Later this year there will be a series of community meetings and online surveys. This is our opportunity to have mtb trail access written into the master plan. If you live, work, or play in GR it is important to voice your opinion.

Friends of Big M and chapter member Ken Blakey-Shell has been attending meeting with other user groups in regards to a proposed logging plan by the Manistee Forest Service in the Udell Hills area.

In the words of Ken:

In clear-cut sections all slash will be removed within 25' of the trail.

In clear-cut sections all slash within 200' of trail will be cut such that it compacts down to 12" or 18" (yet to be determined) within a year of the cut.

The contracts for cutting will be such that companies can cut over a period of 3-5 years. The actual cutting will probably happen over a relatively short period of time (couple weeks) but this 3-5 year period makes it hard to determine when exactly the cut will take place.

Temporary logging roads/treads can be constrained a bit. There was a worry that the trail corridor would make an easy temporary road/tread. Ramona said that constraints could be made such that corridors would be established so that the temporary roads/treads would only be able to cross the trails in specific locations.

The clearcut around the firetower will be 15-20 acres. The trees in that area don't represent an economically viable stand for a commercial logging operation so it will be bid out for firewood and will be cut by a smaller operation. An attempt will be made to clean up the firetower area and interpretive signs will be added to explain features of the area. Thinning of pine will be either "1st or 2nd thinning." Each of these will remove approximately 1/3-1/2 of the pines in a stand. 1st thinning will remove some of the rows. A good example of this is out on Road Monkey or Bindle Stiff where the trail goes down where a row was removed. 2nd thinning try to remove trees more randomly to yield a more natural looking forest instead of the distinctive rows. I wasn't able to get details on what sections slated for thinning are 1st and 2nd thinning.

Red pine thinning is not subject to any seasonal restrictions. This could be an issue for the races such as the Lumberjack 100 and the marathon/50 miler.

Overstory removal is when they come in and take out all of the trees over a certain height. These sections already have a well established understory and it helps that to

develop. Typically all of these sections have tall red pines and a mix of understory trees. In the long-term these sections will develop into more diverse stands of trees.

Aspen clear-cutting and overstory removal are subject to seasonal cutting restrictions because of an endangered bat breeding season. From May 1 to Aug 30 cutting can't take place.

There are restrictions in place that prevent logging equipment from using snowmobile trails November - March. The ski council is considering proposing that this apply to the areas by ski trails also in order minimize trail closures during the skiing season. This would constrain the aspen and overstory removal logging to September and October. Please come to your own conclusions. This largely is a necessary evil. It is going to be ugly, will intrude on our outdoor experience for the next 5-10 years and affect our trail system in the short-term. In the long run it will help the ecological health of the area. There have been no other viable alternatives mentioned and my impression is that there are none available. Not cutting the areas that will have the most dramatic effect on recreational users will negatively affect us more in the long run. While the cutting will have a dramatic negative effect on our experience in the Udell, I don't see the work preventing recreational use of substantial sections of the Udell - Thank goodness endangered bats like to get jiggy in the Udell during the heart of the MTB season!

The 19th Yankee TT is on April 19th-20th this year. Yes it is a two day event this year. Besides a few surprises with the TT itself this year, Saturday will feature demo rides, group rides, short track racing, all centered around the Long Lake Outdoor Center. The Long Lake Outdoor Center features cabins and indoor facilities. For more info head here:

<http://yankeespringstt.org>

Nate Phelps

President, western MMBA

Beattetrain Rides

By Andy Staub

This year will be a very special year for the Beattetrain rides. Not only is it our fourth year running weekly Saturday morning bike rides from Historic Fort Wayne but we are really excited about the ride and all the opportunities to volunteer and have fun. One of the fun things is our weekly tire raffle. You will have the chance to win the "official" set of tires of the BTT Ride. Please be present for more info.

The rides will start at 6am Saturday April 5th when security opens the gates of the fort for bikers only. The riders will leave the gates of the fort at 6:30 am sharp. No exceptions! Please remember its easier to be

20 minutes early then 2 minutes late. There is no "15 minute rule". This year because of the progression of the ride there will be a new set of "rules" never before heard of on the BTT ride. These will be made available weekly before each ride. The ride will include several route changes and variations due to construction and other projects happening around our city. Because of the Gateway Project I-75 from the north will not be available. Please take I-94 to the Livernois exit then south as far as you can til you reach the gates of the fort. From the Downriver area I-75 is still a good option as long as you exit Livernois and not further.

We would also like to invite anyone to join us at the Fort for the Fort Wayne Work Days. We are having one on the 5th so

even if you do not plan on riding you can still come and help out during the work day. BTT has been helping the Coalition with clean up projects and specifically keeping our parking lot clean and safe. For a list of service opportunities at the Fort please refer to the Coalition website. <http://www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/index.html>

As always thanks so much for all the support BeattetraininDetroit has received from the past years and we look forward to seeing old friends and always making new ones. Please come prepared and represent your cycling group for this special ride. This year will be a good time to find out what all the early morning excitement is all about!

See you soon!

Holdridge

By Jeff Colombo

Hello MMBA members my name is Jeff Colombo and I'm the Trail coordinator for the Holdridge lake trails at Holly State Recreation Area. This will be my 3rd year as the trail coordinator of this great mountain bike trail system at the Holly State Recreation Area. It's a new year and I'm looking forward to the 2008 Mountain biking season that's soon approaching. This last year I think was one of the best years for riding at Holdridge. The trails were fast all year long and dry, mostly because of the drought, but still there were no lingering puddles after some of the rain storms we did get. Over the last 2 years we have made some great improvements on the 23 miles of trail, with

most of it being on the West and North loops.

This last year was no exception to some great improvements. The biggest improvement was the additional 1000 feet of trail added before "The Wall" and around "The Wall" making it an uphill and downhill. As well as, allowing 2-way traffic from the end of the Tech Loop to the top of "The Wall". Other fun improvements are the skinnies on the West Loop and the one on the Tech Loop. Another feature that was added to the trail system was a downhill on the East Loop before the Orchard Loop. This downhill is fast and has an optional jump that you can get some serious air from. There were many other small projects done throughout the 23 miles of trail.

nies, jumps/drops, and rock gardens out on the East Loop. Plus there are many places were this trail needs notches, grade dips, and the sand removed from the bottom of the downhill.

We are also going to have a special trail day to just grooming the trails, especially concentrating in the trouble areas throughout the 23 miles of trail. This trail day will be June 14, 2008. It is on the weekend that the DNR has there "Go Outdoors" weekend. We have found that if we do this in June the trails stay clear for the rest of the year. For this to work there has to be mass amount of volunteers show up for this trail day.

All this can't be done effectively or efficiently without volunteers showing up to trail days. This past year we had 36 volunteers attend our trail days giving a total of 392 hours. This is down considerably down from 2006 season of 58 volunteers giving 667 hours. The Holdridge Lakes trail system is the most labor intensive trail in the Metro-Detroit area mostly due to the evasive plant species we have here. For our chapter to effectively up-keep this trail we need more than 5-9 volunteers working on trail days. Everyone at the trail head that I talk to says how much they enjoy this trail system. All we ask is to attend 1 or 2 trails days a year so we can have the greatest trail system in the Metro-Detroit area! As far as I'm concerned we are headed in that direction, so please become part of the team.

The 2008 trail days are going to be just as eventful as the previous 2 years. The concentration of improvements will be on the East Loop this year. These 15 miles of trail needs some work similar to what was done on the West Loop over the last 2 years. There will be more opportunities for stunts in the form of skin-



Reader's Rides

Name: Mark Terrian

Years riding: 4

Favorite trail:

Addison Oaks Love the flow and it's my home trail

Do you race?:

Yes (singlespeed Sport class)

Favorite race?:

Addison Oaks Fall Race... Had my first win as a Beginner there and a 2nd place last year in the SS class.

Other places you toted your bike to: NCT, Pennsylvania in Washington county 50 miles south of Pittsburgh, Las Vegas near Blue Diamond the Dead horse Loop Hot and lots of Climbing! Muddy Winter backroads rides in Northern Oakland County...

Major MTB accomplishments: Finishing 3 Icemens and racing the SS class against some fast cats!!



Ride:

Frame make and model: Gary Fisher Rig 2005

Fork: Reba Race/Bontrager Switchback (carbon)

Hubs: American Classics

Wheels: American Classics

Tires: Nano Raptors

Cranks: Bontrager Race

Pedals: Smarty

Brakes: Avid BB7

Brake Levers: Avids

Seatpost: Thompson Master-piece

Saddle: Aspidi T1 rail

Stem: Easton

Handlebars: Easton carbon

Monkey Lite

Grips: Oury

Anything special about the bike we should know? I added the fenders and studded tires for the messy winter rides this is my first SS bike. I have had this bike since 2005 and has many miles and memories riding with a great bunch of friends....

Be Famous

By Jay Jones

In this Spring Edition of the BRB we will be starting a new series of articles featuring MMBA members and their beloved rides.

Kicking it off is Mark Terrian, aka Biscuit, aka The Biz and his adored Gary Fisher Rig. No, they're not triplets, just aliases. Mark has been riding a short time but has taken the sport very seriously. He is a member of the Cycletherapy Racing team and will fly the orange colors this season in the Sport Single Speed class.

Mark has been enjoying the single speed life almost from the beginning. He owned a geared 29er along with his Rig and he pretty much fell victim to the peer pressure of his single speed buddies and rode his geared bike less and less. Soon after, it went up for sale and he now goes by the mantra of "you only need one" exclusively. Currently he is a proud owner of two single speeds, one custom with some serious orange powder coat and one for serious winter riding, which is the bike of choice for this article. Below is a bio of Mark (Biscuit) Terrian and his trusty steed.

If you want to become famous and have you and your favorite bike featured, please contact me (Jay Jones) via email nativejay713@hotmail.com and I will send you a bio form to fill out and please include at least two pics, one of you striking a pose with the bike and one of just the bike. The pics need to be at least 1200x800 _____. This just isn't for racers, it's for everyone! So don't be bashful! Sign up today!

Get Dirty!

By Joe Foy

Well, here we are on the eve of another great riding season and I know all of you are feeling like I am "I CAN'T WAIT AN LONGER TO RIDE!!!!". But alas we must till the "thaw" is over and then it's time for us to fine tune our beloved trails. Below is a list of the upcoming trail days in the Metro South Chapter. Some Trail Coordinators have been doing work over the winter to where there is no

need for a planned trail day they just ask when you ride please take a moment to pick up that fallen limb or do a little trimming of those dreaded "face slappers".

Munson-Not needed

Highland-Not needed

Commerce (Hickory Glenn)-TBD

Proud Lake- TBD

Milford-TBD

Island Lake-Saturday 04/05 & Sunday 04/06 (Rain Dates 04/12 & 13) BIG RE-

ROUTING PROJECT

Maybury-04/30

Novi (Lakeshore)-05/03

So get your grubby clothes on and come see some old friends and make some new ones. Get dirty with us and help make us fine tune the trails that give us such joy year round. There's nothing better for the soul to ride on a trail you just worked on!!! Thanks to all the dedicated Trail Coordinators for all their hard work and time.

Milford Trail Challenge

It's back... ..the rumor is true!
Saturday, June 7, 2008
Fun ride or epic ~ you decide!

A day of mountain biking starting in the Village of Milford. You pick the course, the length and the degree of difficulty. Covering scenic and sometimes challenging routes between trail heads. Though and around the scenic Village of Milford

Entry Fee: \$20

A portion of proceeds to benefit Metro South MMBA. Another portion to a group that has not been determined.

Length:
Routes range from 7 - 90+ miles

Registration/ Start:
8 ~ 11 a.m.
Saint George's Cafe
359 N. Main St., Milford
Start your ride with a great breakfast or lunch -
www.saintgeorgescafe.com

Finish:
11 am to sunset ...
O'Callaghan's Irish Pub
449 N. Main St., Milford.
Show your ride band to receive DOLLAR BEER's & a congratulatory slap on the back for a job well done. Enjoy some much needed food.

Biking Routes To Trail Heads:
Milford Trail
Highland Mountain Bike Trail
Proud Lake
Hickory Glen Trail Head
Island Lake

If you are not familiar with these trails,

maps may be downloaded from Michigan Mountain Bike Association.

Available Lodging:
Proud Lake Campground. Within three miles of start, this is a great place to camp and ride to the start. Proud Lake also has cabins for rent.

<http://www.midnrreservations.com/campgrounds>

General Information:
YOU NEED TO READ THIS.....

- At registration, participants will receive ride wrist bands, maps of routes to listed trail heads. These maps also indicate water locations and stores.
- Riders must be self supported - Each biker is in charge of providing their own supplies: water, food, etc. (This means no SAG support, bring money, your cell phone to call a friend)
- All bikers must wear helmets.
- All routes will use minimum use of roads, riders ride at their own risk.
- Bikers pick their own course based on length and degree of difficulty.
- Enjoy scenic bike routes around the Village of Milford with other bikers. Riders assume responsibility for reading maps.

Directionally challenged individuals should ride with others.

Sponsored by:
MMBA
O'Callaghan's Irish Pub
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Great Lakes Spoke Junkies
Hermann Construction, Inc.



Date: Wed.
May 21, 2008
Time: Meet at 6:30 PM, ride at 7:00 PM

Where: Hines Park @ Nankin Pavilion Area on Hines Drive south of Ann

Arbor Trail. We will ride south to Telegraph and then back to Nankin Pavilion.

Contact Joseph Foy @ joseph-foy@hotmail.com with any questions you might have.

The Metro South Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is proud to sponsor again the Detroit 2008 "Ride of Silence".

Join cyclists statewide and thousands of cyclists worldwide in the 2008 *Ride of Silence*, a silent slow-paced ride in honor of fallen cyclists. The Ride is free, the route is flat, approximately 12 miles in length and will be ridden no faster than 12 MPH.

Why does this Ride exist?

To HONOR cyclists who have been injured or killed

To RAISE AWARENESS that we are here

To let motorists know they must SHARE THE ROAD

The Ride of Silence WILL NOT BE QUIET

The first *Ride of Silence* was organized in Dallas in 2003 after an endurance cyclist was hit and killed by a passing bus. In a 10 day period via emails & word of mouth, 1,000+ cyclists attended that 1st Ride. By 2006, there were over 250 *Rides of Silence* held Worldwide, in 8 countries, on 5 continents.

There's no registration, no fees, no t-shirt. Wear a black armband to honor a cyclist who has been killed and/or a red band to honor a cyclist who has been injured while out riding. (armbands will be provided) Hel-mets are Mandatory.

Milk Jug Racing Schedule

Wednesday April 30, 2008
XC race in Greenville, Shearer Rd Trail at 06:45 PM

Wednesday May 14, 2008
TT at Ionia State Recreation Area at 06:45 PM

Wednesday May 28, 2008
XC race at Cannonsburg Ski Area at 06:45 PM
www.milkjugracing.com

Stony Creek Fall Challenge

-Part II

By TJ Hill, bicycle aficionado

On Saturday night I managed to get to bed at 9:30 as I hoped to be adequately recovered by the start of the Sunday phase of the Stony Creek Fall Challenge. I managed to get out of bed promptly at 5:45 then went about the standard necessities including making breakfast. My long distance breakfast is Oatmeal that consists of 8 ounces of Quick Oats. I heat 16 ounces of water. I add raisins to the oats. When the water boils I dump in the oats and raisins and stir for One Minute. I dump the contents of a bowl add cut up strawberries then cut up a banana then add sliced peaches that I cut into bite sized pieces. I pour a glass of Orange Juice and eat the oatmeal fruit combination. Over the years I have found that this will sustain me for 5 to 6 hours or 100 miles, whichever comes first.

At Stony I wasn't sure if anyone would show up for Phase Two, of the double dirt century, or if I would be, "The Lone Ranger." Much to my delight Dave dot Kom showed up. We quickly got ready to ride. The start temperature was more moderate than it had been on Saturday. I decided to use a piece of newspaper inside my jersey and I gave a piece to Dave who tucked it under his jersey as well. So of we went west on

the trail to the first hole in the fence then north to Snell as we had done on Saturday.

I mentioned to Dave that we would be doing an eastern route to start and it would be purposely easier than the Saturday route. Since I was the navigator and I was tired I didn't think I'd be up to doing too many major climbs. It didn't take me long to realize that even minor climbs were tough on my depleted body. I was OK on moderate terrain but any hill over 4% gave me trouble.

We headed east on 31 Mile Road where we found that the road east of Mound had been paved. The pavement went on for about 3/4ths of a mile, just beyond the new subdivision entrance. At Campground we went north a mile and a half then stair steeped west and north to 33 Mile. At Dequindre we went north to 34 Mile/Mack and went west. After passing Townsend we were on the standard Almont course that we then took to the Bakery at the corner of General Squires and Van Dyke. Normally this would be the 23 mile mark. Today with the eastern addition we were at 29.5 miles.

I decided to act like a normal tour and have a food stop during the first quarter of the ride. We went into the bakery and each had a banana nut muffin. When we left the bakery we headed east to Kidder then north to Tubspring. We went west to Shoemaker then north to Hollow Corners. At Muir we went north to Hall Lane where we stopped

at the home of Shelia Murphy who was the exuberant waitress at Maria's Restaurant in Almont many years ago. I talked to one of the Murphy relatives who happened to be in the front yard when we passed. He said he'd pass on my greetings to Shelia.

At Blacks Corners we headed north till we reached Hunters Creek where we headed west. We rode Hunters Creek a good many miles to the West until we reached Wilder where we headed south. Hunters Creek is off the Metro Park Map. Actually it is the unnamed top border of the map. Sutton is one mile south and the last east west named road on the map. We took wilder to Sutton then headed west till we reached Lapeer Road. The Road is under construction with the eastern two lane section closed to traffic. I decided to do the easy thing and take the closed portion of M-24 south to the Sun Dance Restaurant. We arrived at the restaurant with 52 miles on our odometers. On Saturday we had 61 at that point.

We went in and were greeted by oriental Marie who mentioned that the group was much smaller today. I replied that most thought that a single 100 mile dirt road ride was plenty for one weekend. We had our usual good lunch, "Veggie Scrambled." Today at lunch I knew I was in much more tired condition than I had been on Saturday even though Saturday was both further as well as more arduous. As lunch wound down I told Dave the plan for the after lunch phase of the ride.

We would return to Ortonville, both the Rec. Area and the City but we would not do the super hill on Fox Lake Road. We stair stepped west and south down Calley to Baldwin to Bocker then to Hadley that is paved. Hadley southbound has a hill of considerable length that tops out at Fox Lake Road. I managed to hang onto Dave's wheel on this climb that is a steady 7% grade. It was the only big climb that I was able to climb at Dave's pace.

We headed west on Fox Lake Road and just as we were climbing up to the 90 degree turn on Honert there were two hors ladies that noted our struggle. One yelled out, "Get a Horse." I giggled and struggled on. When we reached the City of Ortonville we crossed the bike path that had been under construction on Saturday. There were dirt sections



Burled tree and the guys

that were rideable. At The Wolfe Intersection I checked my GPS odometer. We had covered 67 Miles at that point. I mentioned to Dave that the mileage was right as it was either 32 or 34 miles back to the park from that point.

I planned to do the opposite route from how we had come out on Saturday. We would use Bird southbound then begin a series of Stair Steps that would get us down to Rat-talee Lake Road where we would begin our eastbound trek. Dave acknowledged that he understood my plan. I had mentioned that we would reach a point where Bird turned west while Glass went east. This addition of information must have confused Dave as east was the way back rather than west. The initial portion of Bird off Grange Hall heads south. The road surface is lumpy and hilly and thus Dave was a good deal ahead of me when I reached to right turn for Bird.

Now comes one of those mysteries that happed occasionally. I thought I saw Dave turn right onto westbound Bird though after I got there and turned right and continued on for a quarter mile before Bird makes a 90 degree turn to the left, heading south, Dave was not in sight. I did the best I could pace-wise. I went fast downhill and struggled up the next hill. I did not spot Dave but surely expected to see him at the intersection of the next turn onto Kier. I reached Kier and there was no Dave. I thought he must be really confident in remembering the stair steps we did on Saturday.

I continued on thru the stair steps. On Knox I spotted a biker. My spirit soared as I thought finally, he's waiting. When I got closed I realized the jersey I was seeing was Black rather than red, it wasn't Dave. It was a young lady who I passed with a moderate greeting. After that I gave up ever expecting to see Dave before getting back to Stony. I plodded on as best I could keeping a decent pace on flats and doing climbs as best I could without killing myself.

Eventually I arrived at the oft used course near the Poly Ann then the pass west and south of Lake Orion. I reached the Paint Creek that I knew was the short route back but that it might affect my having 100 Miles when I did get back. I compromised, that is I took the Paint Creek to Adams then jiggled over to Buell then headed east. I went east to Hadden then south to Gunn then west to Sheldon then south to the hole in the fence. I did some preliminary mileage calculating then used the sub north of Snell to round up the mileage so I would pass thru the hole in the fence with 98.7 Miles. I was 0.2 short when I passed thru the hole in the fence so I turned right south for 0.1 mile then turned back and then came in with 100.0 miles on my GPS odometer.

As I passed Dave's Van there he was sitting on the floor at the sliding door with Cell Phone in hand. He had tried to call me but had my old Cell Phone number from when I had Verizon, thus no connection. So then came the explanation of what happened at the Bird Glass intersection. Dave had turned

left onto Glass as that was east and seemingly the way to get back rather than turning right that was west. He rode on a short distance then when I didn't show up he returned to the intersection and looked both north and west and didn't see me.

So then he was faced with what to do. Fortunately he carries a portion of the Metro Park map in his tool bag. He got the map out found that Bird turns into Granger that goes east to Coats that is the way he returned on Saturday when he headed back early ass he had a wedding reception to attend with his wife Gail.

So as things came to pass we had ridden together for 70 miles than each did a different 30 mile return to the park where we each came in with 100 Miles for the day. I was most happy to see him there in the parking lot and to hear the explanation that made everything Just Right. Thus Dave finished the weekend with 165 Miles while I finished with 201 as the first place finisher in the first ever Stony Creek Fall Challenge.

With this sort of a ride completed the road ride known as CFC is off my mental calendar though I had a good run with CFC that began in 1976 and ended in 2005 or thereabout.

With my 201 miles in the bag my yearly mileage stands at 10,289 and counting.

Till next time, happy days and exhilarating trails.

Mountain Bikers Take Prominent Role at National Bike Summit

More than 500 cyclists, including a record number of mountain bike advocates, attended the National Bike Summit in Washington, DC, this week. IMBA is proud to enter its second year as a leading sponsor of the summit, which is hosted by the League of American Bicyclists. Delegates from around the country converged on Capitol Hill to attend informative conference sessions and flex their political muscle. Mountain bikers focused on improving protections for public lands, asking for better recreational trail opportunities and improving congressional funding for federal land-managing agencies.

Brian Waidmann, the Chief of Staff for Secretary of the Interior Dick Kempthorne, opened the event Tuesday night with a speech highlighting the many world-class bicycling opportunities on NPS lands, both on- and off-road. Support for the NPS Centennial Initiative emerged as a major theme for mountain bike advocates.

The initiative proposes robust funding increases of \$100 million annually to revitalize national parks in time for the agency's 100th anniversary in 2016. IMBA signed a formal partnership agreement with the NPS in 2005 to identify and expand appropriate mountain biking opportunities. IMBA has issued an Action Alert urging mountain bikers to support the Centennial Initiative by

writing letters to editors of local and regional news outlets.

Bike advocates at the summit also promoted the importance of trail-based recreation to local economies. Longtime corporate supporter Shimano partnered with IMBA to distribute a new study The Economics and Benefits of Mountain Biking to Washington decision makers.

IMBA supporters unable to attend the National Bike Summit can still immerse themselves in the mountain bike movement with the IMBA World Summit held in Park City, Utah, June 18-21.

IMBA's efforts to promote mountain biking in Washington, DC, are fueled by the Legal Fund.

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www.sportcrafters.com

Grosse Pointe Woods

American Cycle & Fitness
313.886.1968
www.americancycleandfitness.com

Jackson
On Two Wheels, Inc.
517.789.6077
www.otwjackson.com

Kentwood
Kentwood Schwinn Cycling & Fit
616.942.1880

Livonia
Cycle to Fitness
734.266.8203
www.cycletofitness.com

Macomb Township
American Cycle and Fitness
248-960-1371
www.americancycleandfitness.com

Muskegon
Breakaway Bicycles & Fitness
231.799.0008
www.breakawaybicycles.com

Northville
D & D Bicycle and Fitness
248.347.1511
www.ddbicyclesandfitness.com

Okemos

Denny's Central Park Bicycles
517.349.8880
www.dennyscentralparkbikes.com

Plymouth
Trail's Edge Cyclery
734.420.1200
www.trails-edge.com

Pontiac
American Cycle & Fitness
248.333.7843
www.americancycleandfitness.com

Portage
Breakaway Bicycles and Fitness
269.324.5555
www.breakawaybicycles.com

Rochester
Rochester Bike Shop
248.652.6376
www.rochesterbikeshop.com

Rochester Hills
KLM Bike & Fitness
248.299.0456
www.klmfitness.com

Royal Oak
American Cycle & Fitness
248.542.7182
www.americancycleandfitness.com

Traverse City

Brick Wheels
231.947.4274
www.brickwheels.com

Walled Lake
American Cycle & Fitness
248.960.1371
www.americancycleandfitness.com

Warren
Macomb Bike and Fitness
586-756-5400
www.macombbike.com

Waterford
Cycletherapy Bicycles LLC
248.681.8600
www.ctbicycles.com

Westland
D & D Bicycles and Fitness
734-522-9410
www.ddbicyclesandfitness.com

Ypsilanti
Tree Fort Bike & Board
734.484.9999
www.treefortbikes.com

What We Do

Developing and Maintaining Trails

Our volunteers design, develop, and maintain trails across the State, working with every major recreation land manager. Within Southeast Michigan alone, the MMBA has designed, developed and/or maintains over 100 miles of off road trails.

Our trail design volunteers are trained by IMBA using standards developed by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service. Trail design, development, and maintenance are performed by volunteers. These trails have a natural compacted soil surface. They use the natural features of the land, are sustainable, and minimize any effects on the nearby environment, including trees. They are designed to require minimal maintenance.

Promoting Proper Trail Use

We educate all users on proper trail use that is environmentally sound and socially responsible through our web site, newsletters, brochures, posters, emails, trail handbook, and word-of-mouth. We also host various ride clinics during the summer.

Involving Youth in Outdoor Recreation

Our Mountain Kids events focus on providing a positive outdoor recreational experience in a "backcountry" setting for children, ages 8-12, who wouldn't normally have the opportunity to participate in such activities.

Our CPS Races also allow kids to build fitness and compete in a healthy, outdoors environment.

Helping Others on the Trail

We've partnered with IMBA to develop a National Mountain Bike Patrol in Michigan. Modeled after the National Ski Patrol, our volunteer patrollers are trained in first aid, CPR, and bike repair.

Encouraging More Woman Cyclists

We partner with the DNR and host an annual mountain bike clinic for woman at all levels. The clinic focuses on riding skills, bike repair, bike fitting, and nutrition. We're expanding this concept to monthly educational rides for women only.

Bringing Together Advocacy and Racing

The MMBA hosts a Championship Points Series, one of the most popular mountain bike race series in the U.S. Racers participate at venues across the State and throughout the summer, earning points based on their finishes. At the end of the year we recognize the top ranked individuals within the racing categories. This series serves as a fundraiser for trail development while exposing athletes to the advocacy side of the sport.



Michigan Mountain Biking Association

Bent Rim Bugle

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Waterford, MI 48327

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